

U.S. MMA Inventory State Newsletter

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Initial Data Collection Deadline Approaching

The MMA Inventory project is approaching its October 2005 end date for initial data collection and a subsequent shift in priorities and funding. The MPA Center contacted state representatives on the 15th of July, 2005, to inform them that the MPA Center will be working directly with them to finalize the initial data collection by September 1, 2005, and then format the data properly for inclusion on the MMA Inventory web page by October 1, 2005. Assistance from the MPA Center may take many forms,

including a conference call for a site-by-site data review with state representatives.

Despite the cessation of the great majority of funding, there will be ongoing opportunity for states to review, alter and add to the data sets after October 1st as the Inventory will be an evolving and updated database. MPA Center staff will also continue to collect the best publicly available information to fill the remaining priority data gaps that are needed for analysis related to developing the national system of MPAs.



*Sasanhaya Fish Reserve,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

For additional information or questions please contact Paul Ticco, MPA Project Coordinator at (301) 563-1162 or at paul.ticco@noaa.gov.

State Status Table

Agency/State	Tabular Data	Approval Date	Last Updated
State/Territory/Commonwealth			
California	draft complete	August, 2004	August, 2004
Massachusetts	complete	January, 2005	January, 2005
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	complete	January, 2003	January, 2003
Virginia	draft complete	August, 2004	August, 2004
Washington	complete	March, 2005	March, 2005

State Data Collection Status Update

To date, significant progress has been made in the collection of MMA Inventory data. States have identified over 1,400 state MMAs with final data for three states and territories currently posted on the MPA Center's website www.mpa.gov (see table above). Twenty out of the thirty-five states are still in the review phase of the process, where state managers are checking the data for accuracy as well

as amending and supplementing the information. Two of these states, California and Virginia, have given approval to post their data as draft while they continue to check it over. The remaining eleven states are in various levels of data collection while all states are continuing the compilation of GIS information.

However, there are still many gaps in the data that prevent the

realization of the project's ultimate goal: compilation and dissemination of the most accurate MMA data possible. The MMA Team would like to help the states complete their data reviews and ensure that the data is of a high quality to post. Please contact Paul Ticco for more information, (301) 563-1162 or at paul.ticco@noaa.gov.

Important News About Cultural Data

Over the next few months, the MPA Center will contact State and Territory (State) MMA Cultural Resource Agency contacts to verify the cultural resource information within the MMA Inventory. This effort is being undertaken in conjunction with the larger initiative to complete initial MMA data collection by September 1, 2005. This step is necessary to ensure that each State's cultural resources are accurately reflected within the submitted MMA sites. MPA Center staff conducted a review of the cultural resource information, and spoke with many representatives of State cultural resource agencies, finding that much of the cultural resource data within the inventory is missing important information, is vague, or that the cultural resource is not located within the marine component of the site as published in the MMA Inventory Final Criteria (FRN Vol. 70 (15) http://mpa.gov/inventory/pdf/MMA_Criteria_05-1262.pdf). Although many of the sites listed in the inventory have a terrestrial and

a marine component (e.g., refuges and parks), the cultural resources must reside within the marine portion as defined by the MMA criteria to be included in the inventory.



War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam

After review of the existing entries within the inventory, MPA Center staff also found a lack of consistent information in the cultural resource fields. To make the data more compatible with current Federal and State cultural resource categories, and to make the information more standardized, revised categories were developed for the 'cultural resource type' field. The information that was originally entered is still contained within the inventory and a copy of the information is appended to the 'cultural resource comments' field. In an attempt to streamline the process, the MPA Center has hired a Cultural Resources Research Fellow, Valerie Grussing, who will work with each State to assist in verifying the information in the cultural resource fields. The MPA Center's Cultural Resource Coordinator, Brian Jordan, and Valerie will contact each State's relevant agencies and send them a report of all sites currently listed in each State's MMA Inventory. The MPA Center asks that each State MMA point of contact and cultural resource

agency or agencies work together to ensure that the cultural resource information is filled out correctly for each site and zone. The pertinent fields needing review include cultural resource type, cultural resource protection, and cultural resource comments. New MMA sites that include protected cultural resources may also be added during this time, if they were not included in the initial data collection. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in working with us to ensure that the most accurate data is included in the MMA inventory.



Biscayne National Park, Florida

For questions or additional information about the cultural resources data collection process, please contact either Brian Jordan, Maritime Archaeologist Coordinator for the MPA Center, at 301-713-3100 x140 or brian.jordan@noaa.gov, or Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Research Fellow for the MPA Center, at 301-713-3000 x149 or valerie.grussing@noaa.gov.



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin

GIS Data Collection Continues



Ellisville Harbor State Park, Massachusetts

As the MMA Inventory data collection process continues, GIS data are rolling in on a continuing

basis. Nineteen states have submitted some GIS data, with fifteen of these states having submitted over 75% of their boundaries. The MMA Team is working hard to create comprehensive metadata for each state's dataset (metadata is information about the data that may include sources, dates, format, resolution, scale, and reliability).

With the initial data collection deadline approaching, the MMA Team will be sending each state

a report of its current GIS status to help in obtaining the rest of the boundaries. This report will include a list indicating if a digital boundary has been submitted for each site.

Please submit all boundary data to the GIS Specialist, Joel Murray at joel.murray@noaa.gov. To view the currently posted MMA boundaries please visit the MMA Atlas in the Explore the Inventory Section of www.mpa.gov.

MMAs Highlighted at the 2005 Coastal Zone Conference

During the week of July 18th, 2005, coastal managers from around the U.S. descended upon New Orleans for the 2005 Coastal Zone conference. The National Ocean Service Special Projects MMA Team was represented by Lani Watson and Becca Newhall, who presented information about how to get the most out of the Marine Managed Areas Inventory, and gave a poster session

on this information. Specific topics addressed included: what is the U.S. MMA Inventory; what can the MMA Inventory be used for; and, what tools does the Inventory provide. Not only did their Coastal Zone presentations demonstrate the value of the MMA Inventory alone, but how the Inventory can be used in combination with other existing datasets. One example given was

how the Inventory was used to compare federal MMAs in the Gulf of Mexico to estimated coastal populations within 50 miles of those sites. For additional information about the presentation or poster, please contact Becca Newhall, Coastal and Marine Conservation Specialist, at rebecca.newhall@noaa.gov.



For Questions, Please Contact:

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For more information about the MMA Inventory, please visit us online at www.mpa.gov



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